

• INFO memo - Jan. 30, 2004

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BAPD Volunteer Program 'Certified'

The volunteers who do so much for the Broken Arrow Police Department have always had the praise and recognition of the men and women with whom they work. From now on, however, they'll have the recognition of the office of the President!

Lisa Ford, the PD's Crime Prevention Specialist, announced this week that she has received confirmation that the volunteer program has been approved as a "Certified Organization for the President's Volunteer Service Awards."

Ford points out that the BAPD volunteers will now receive a pin, letter and certificate from the President for their work with the Police Department.

Volunteers work at a variety of jobs in the Police Department – everything from record keeping to shredding paper files, and a lot in between!

The President's Volunteer Service Award, an initiative of the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation, honors America's volunteers and encourages even more Americans to get involved, according to the web site at www.presidentialserviceawards.gov.

Those wishing information on the volunteer program at BAPD should call Ford at 451-8213.

Honorary Mayor, Vice-Mayor Saluted Tonight

The Honorary Mayor and Vice-Mayor named by Broken Arrow's City Council for the 2004 Rooster Days celebration will be recognized Friday night at the annual Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet.

This year's honorees are both from the field of education. Judy Gourd, former Director of Communications for Broken Arrow Public Schools, will serve as the Honorary Mayor. The Vice-Mayor is former BAPS Superintendent of Schools Dr. Clarence Oliver.

Also being honored at the banquet in Tulsa's Sheraton Hotel will be the City's Firefighter and Police Officer of the Year.

Each year the City Council names a man and a woman to hold those titles as Honorary Mayor and Vice-Mayor to preside over the Chamber's Rooster Days celebration, including the parade. Rooster Days this year will be held May 6-9, with the parade Saturday, May 8.

Neighborhood Homeowners Association Workshop Set

Again this year representatives from Neighborhood Homeowners Associations will have an opportunity to meet with City staff members in an exchange of information workshop scheduled Feb. 21.

The three-hour program (9 a.m. to 12 noon on a Saturday) will be held once again at the old Central Middle School at Main and College.

Organized by the City's Planning Department, the workshops are open to representatives from the neighborhood associations and homeowners associations throughout the community. Farhad Daroga, the City Planner, will be on hand with many of his staff, as well as representatives from Inspections, Engineering, Legal and other departments to answer questions and receive input from citizens.

Daroga said that an agenda for the workshop would be announced in the next few days.

Trash Bag Distribution, Spring Cleaning Day Scheduled

Broken Arrow Public Works Director Dave Wooden has announced the dates for the 2004 distribution of free plastic trash bags, as well as the free Spring Cleaning Day.

Four rolls of 50 trash bags each will be handed out to citizens who bring in the cards sent to them by the City this spring. This is a program maintained by the City Council in an effort to emphasize keeping the community clean, while also making it much easier on sanitation crews which do the curbside pickups.

Distribution this year will take place from April 12 through 17 and again April 19 through 24 (Monday through Saturday in each of those weeks), from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day. Public Works crews will be on hand at the City's Maintenance Center (1700 W. Detroit) throughout the two-week period to exchange the rolls of trash bags for the cards.

Broken Arrow's Free Spring Cleaning Day will be Saturday, May 1, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., also at the Maintenance Center. On that day residents may bring brush, yard clippings, and normal trash brought in in trucks, trailers or other vehicles. Old furniture will also be accepted.

Not accepted will be any kind of hazardous waste, including, but not limited to, oil, paint, batteries, refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, etc. Also on the list of items not taken are roofing materials, remodeling materials, bags of dirt and rocks, hypodermic needles and syringes, etc.

Wooden said further information would be provided in the spring. He also reminds citizens that the 24-hour recycling center on Elm Place is one of the busiest in the entire Tulsa area and can be used at any time for newspapers, aluminum cans, etc.

Police Chief Praises Officers

Broken Arrow Chief of Police Todd Wuestewald has issued letters of praise to several of his officers for their recent efforts.

One letter came as the result of drug arrests, which totaled nine arrests last Friday night "for various drug charges." Wuestewald also pointed out that officers recovered a meth lab, several grams of finished product and a large quantity of precursors. "You obviously shut down a major drug enterprise doing a brisk business," said the Chief. "Well done to all of you."

That praise was directed to Brandon Gilstrap, Erik VanHorn, Brett Burton and Daniel Hurst.

In another letter to Marc Smith and Matt Barnes, Wuestewald commended the officers for their efforts in solving a residential burglary. He cited the work they did in canvassing the neighborhood where the crime occurred, developing suspect information from witnesses, contacting the suspects and eventually recovering the stolen property. Two suspects were subsequently arrested.

"This was a textbook case of patrol officers performing a thorough investigation and going the extra effort to solve a crime," he told them. "Good job!"

NSU Magazine Features BA Police Officers

The Fall/Winter edition of "Imprints" magazine features three Broken Arrow Police officers who earned degrees from Northeastern State University.

The magazine is an alumni publication, and in that issue ran a story and photo on Chief Todd Wuestewald, Major David Adair and Major Norman Stevens.

The criminal justice curriculum which has been offered by NSU on its Tahlequah campus is now provided as well at NSU-BA.

Wuestewald has a Master of Science in Criminal Justice in 2002. He began his education at Michigan State University, majoring in English. But a few elective classes in criminal justice and a part-time job working in security at a local hospital got him hooked.

Adair holds a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice (1991) and a Master of Science in Criminal Justice (2002).

Stevens also earned his Master of Science in Criminal Justice in 2002, and found his love for law enforcement while working for the NSU campus police.